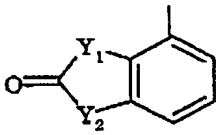
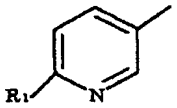


(a)



(b)

R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or an $-NH_2$, $-NR_3R_4$, $-NR_3CO(C_1-C_4)Alk$ or $-NR_3SO_2(C_1-C_4)Alk$ group;

R_2 represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or a $(C_1-C_4)Alk$, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, -COOH, -COO $(C_1-C_4)Alk$, -CN, $-CONR_3R_4$, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2NR_3R_4$ or $-NHSO_2(C_1-C_4)Alk$ group;

m and n each represent 0, 1 or 2;

R_3 and R_4 each represent a hydrogen atom or a $(C_1-C_4)Alk$ group;

Y_1 and Y_2 each represent NH or O;

or a salt or solvate thereof.

2. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where X represents CH.

3. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where X represents a nitrogen atom and the R_2 group is in the 5-position.

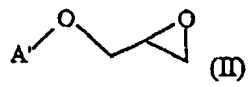
4. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where the $(C_1-C_4)Alk$ group is a methyl or ethyl group.

5. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R_2 is chosen from –COOH, $-COO(C_1-C_4)Alk$, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-CONR_3R_4$ and $-NHSO_2-(C_1-C_4)Alk$.

6. (amended) 3-[1-(5-Ethoxycarbonylpyrid-2-yl)-4-piperidinylamino]-1-(1,2-dihydro-2-oxobenzimidazol-4-yloxy)-2-propanol or a salt or solvate thereof.

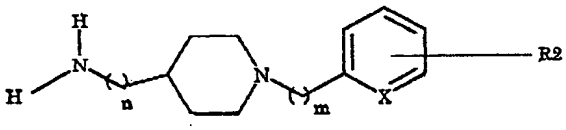
7. (amended) 3-[1-(5-Ethoxycarbonylpyrid-2-yl)-4-piperidinylamino]-1-[2-aminopyrid-5-yloxy]-2-propanol or a salt or solvate thereof.

8. (amended) A process for the preparation of the compound of claim 1 wherein an epoxide of formula (II):



(II)

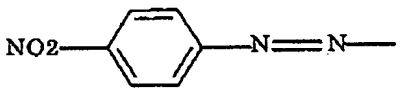
in which A' represents the group (a) or the group (b) in which R_1 is optionally protected, where (a), (b) and R_1 are as defined in claim 1, is reacted with an amine of formula (III)



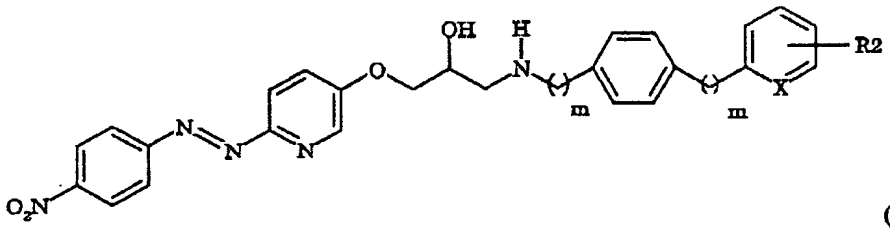
(III)

where m, n, R_2 and X are as indicated above, the protective group optionally present is removed and, optionally, the product of formula (I) thus obtained is converted into one of its salts or solvates.

9. (amended) A process for the preparation of the compound of claim 1 where A represents a group (b) and R_1 is an NH_2 group, wherein a product of formula (II) as defined in claim 8 where A' is the group (b) and R_1 is a group of formula:



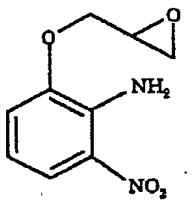
is reacted with an amine of formula III and the product of formula IV thus obtained:



(IV)

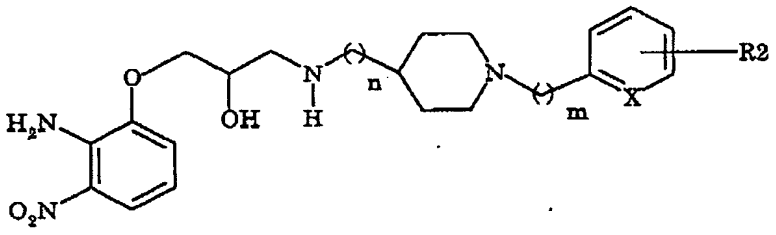
is subjected to a hydrogenation reaction in order to convert the 4-nitrophenyldiazenyl group to an amino group and, optionally, the product of formula (I) thus obtained is converted into one of its salts or solvates.

10. (amended) A process for the preparation of the compound of claim 1 where A represents the group (a) and Y_1 and Y_2 represent a nitrogen atom, wherein a compound of formula (V):



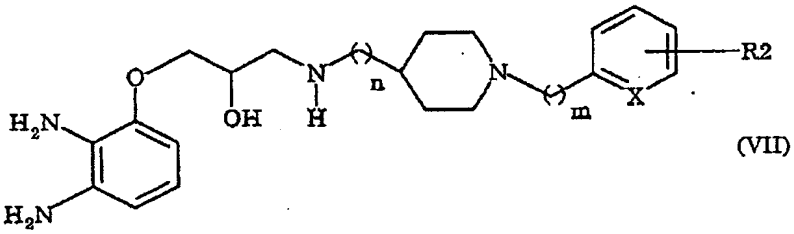
(V)

is reacted with a compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 8, the nitro group of the product of formula (VI) thus obtained:



(VI)

is reduced, the product of formula (VII) thus obtained:



(VII)

is treated with a carbonylation agent, the product of formula (I) thus obtained is isolated and, optionally, is converted into one of its salts or solvates.

A1

11. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the carbonylation agent is chosen from carbonyldiimidazole and phosgene.

Please cancel claim 13.

Please add the following new claims:

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 2.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 3.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 4.

17 A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 5.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 6.

A2

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 7.

20. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

21. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

22. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

23. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4.

24. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 5.

25. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 6.

26. A method for treating pathologies that are improved by β_3 agonist activity which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 7.